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51 migrants die after trailer abandoned in San Antonio heat



Police and other first responders work the scene where officials say dozens of people have been found dead and multiple others were taken to hospitals with heat-related illnesses after a semitrailer containing suspected migrants was found, Monday, June 27, 2022, in San Antonio.

Associated Press

Ghislaine Maxwell sentenced to 20 years for helping Epstein



Christine Maxwell, left, Kevin Maxwell, rear center, and Isabel Maxwell, right, siblings of Ghislaine Maxwell, leave federal court, Tuesday, June 28, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

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51 migrants die after trailer abandoned in San Antonio heat

From Front

By **ERIC GAY, PAUL J. WEBER**
and **ELLIOT SPAGAT**

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Desperate families of migrants from Mexico and Central America frantically sought word of their loved ones as authorities began the grim task Tuesday of identifying 51 people who died after being abandoned in a tractor-trailer without air conditioning in the sweltering Texas heat.

It was the worst tragedy to claim the lives of migrants smuggled across the border from Mexico.

The driver of the truck and two other people were arrested, U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar of Texas told The Associated Press.

He said the truck had passed through a Border Patrol checkpoint northeast of Laredo, Texas, on Interstate 35. He didn't know if migrants were inside the truck when it cleared the checkpoint.

The bodies were discovered Monday afternoon on the outskirts of San Antonio when a city worker heard a cry for help from the truck parked on a lonely back road and found the gruesome scene inside, Police Chief William McManus said. Hours later, body bags lay spread on the ground. More than a dozen people — their bodies hot to the touch — were taken to hospitals, including four children.

Forty-six people were found dead at the scene, authorities said. Five more later died after being taken to hospitals, said Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff, the county's top elected official. Most of the dead were males, he said.

The death count was the highest ever from a smuggling incident in the United States, according to Craig Larrabee, acting special agent in charge of Homeland Security Investigations in San Antonio.

"This is a horror that surpasses anything we've experienced before," said San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg. "And it's sadly a pre-



San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg with San Antonio Police Chief William McManus, left, brief media and others at the scene where they said dozens of people have been found dead and multiple others were taken to hospitals with heat-related illnesses after a semitrailer containing suspected migrants was found, Monday, June 27, 2022, in San Antonio.

Associated Press

ventable tragedy."

President Joe Biden called the deaths "horrifying and heartbreaking."

"Exploiting vulnerable individuals for profit is shameful, as is political grandstanding around tragedy, and my administration will continue to do everything possible to stop human smugglers and traffickers from taking advantage of people who are seeking to enter the United States between ports of entry," Biden said in a statement.

The home countries of all of the migrants and how long they were abandoned on the side of the road were not immediately known.

At least 22 were from Mexico, seven from Guatemala and two from Honduras, Roberto Velasco Álvarez, head of the North America department in Mexico's Foreign Relations Department, said on Twitter. Families were reaching out to the Mexican Consulate in San Antonio throughout the morning looking for their loved ones, an employee there said.

Attempts to cross the U.S. border from Mexico have claimed thousands of lives in both countries in recent decades.

U.S. border authorities are stopping migrants more often on the southern border than at any time in at

least two decades. Migrants were stopped nearly 240,000 times in May, up by one-third from a year ago.

Comparisons to pre-pandemic levels are complicated because migrants expelled under a public health authority known as Title 42 face no legal consequences, encouraging repeat attempts. Authorities say 25% of encounters in May were with people who had been stopped at least once in the previous year.

South Texas has long been the busiest area for illegal border crossings. U.S. authorities discover trucks with migrants inside "pretty close" to daily, Larrabee said.

Migrants typically pay \$8,000 to \$10,000 to be taken across the border and loaded into a tractor-trailer and driven to San Antonio, where they transfer to smaller vehicles for their final destinations across the United States, he said.

Conditions vary widely, including how much water passengers get and whether they are allowed to carry cellphones, Larrabee said. Authorities think the truck discovered Monday had mechanical problems when it was left next to a railroad track in an area of San Antonio surrounded by auto scrapyards that brush

up against a busy freeway, Wolff said. "They had just parked it on the side of the road," he said.

San Antonio has been a recurring scene of tragedy and desperation in recent years involving migrants in semitrailers.

Ten migrants died in 2017 after being trapped inside a truck parked at a San Antonio Walmart. In 2003, the bodies of 19 migrants were found in a sweltering truck southeast of the city. More than 50 migrants were found alive in a trailer in 2018, driven by a man who said he was to be paid \$3,000 and was sentenced to more than five years in prison.

"These drivers, they take money from the cartels," said state Sen. Roland Gutierrez, a Democrat from San Antonio. "I'm sure many times these trucks end up at their destination successfully. Unfortunately, this has now happened all too often."

Other incidents have occurred long before migrants reached the U.S. border. In December, more than 50 died when a semitrailer filled with migrants rolled over on a highway in southern Mexico. In October, Mexican authorities reported finding 652 migrants packed into six trailers near the U.S. border. They

were stopped at a military checkpoint.

Of the sixteen people taken to hospitals Monday with heat-related illnesses, five later died. Some were in critical condition, according to the hospitals.

One young woman, was unable to speak because of a tube placed by doctors when he visited her Monday night, said Antonio Fernandez, president and CEO of Catholic Charities in San Antonio.

He asked her two questions: if he could pray with her, and if she was from Guatemala. She nodded yes both times.

"She was weak," he said.

Those taken to the hospital were hot to the touch and dehydrated, and no water was found in the trailer, said Fire Chief Charles Hood.

"They were suffering from heat stroke and exhaustion," Hood said. "It was a refrigerated tractor-trailer, but there was no visible working AC unit on that rig."

Temperatures in San Antonio on Monday approached 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius).

Big rigs emerged as a popular smuggling method in the early 1990s amid a surge in U.S. border enforcement in San Diego and El Paso, Texas.

Before that, people paid small fees to mom-and-pop operators to get them across a largely unguarded border. As crossing became exponentially more difficult after the 2001 terror attacks in the U.S., migrants were led through more perilous terrain and had to pay thousands of dollars more.

Some advocates drew a link to the Biden administration's border policies. Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, policy director at the American Immigration Council, wrote that he had been dreading such a tragedy for months. "With the border shut as tightly as it is today for migrants from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, people have been pushed into more and more dangerous routes," he wrote on Twitter. □

FDA advisers recommend updating COVID booster shots for fall

By **LAURAN NEERGAARD**
and **MATTHEW PERRONE**
Associated Press

At least some U.S. adults may get updated COVID-19 shots this fall, as government advisers voted Tuesday that it's time to tweak booster doses to better match the most recent virus variants.

Advisers to the Food and Drug Administration wrestled with how to modify doses now when there's no way to know how the rapidly mutating virus will evolve by fall — especially since people who get today's recommended boosters remain strongly protected against COVID-19's worst outcomes.

Ultimately the FDA panel voted 19-2 that COVID-19 boosters should contain some version of the super-contagious omicron variant, to be ready for an anticipated fall booster campaign.

"We are going to be behind the eight-ball if we wait longer," said one adviser, Dr. Mark Sawyer of the University of California, San Diego.

The FDA will have to decide the exact recipe, but expect a combination shot that adds protection against either omicron or some of its newer relatives to the original vaccine.

"None of us has a crystal ball" to know the next threatening variant, said FDA vaccine chief Dr. Peter Marks. But "we may at least bring the immune system closer to being able to respond to what's circulating" now rather than far older virus strains.

It's not clear who would be offered a tweaked booster — they might be urged only for older adults or those at high risk from the virus. But the FDA is expected to decide on the recipe change within days and then Pfizer and Moderna will have to seek authorization for the appropriately updated doses, time for health authorities to settle on a fall strategy.

Current COVID-19 vaccines have saved millions of lives globally. With a booster dose, those used in the

U.S. retain strong protection against hospitalization and death but their ability to block infection dropped markedly when omicron appeared. And the omicron mutant that caused the winter surge has been replaced by its genetically distinct relatives. The two newest omicron cousins, called BA.4 and BA.5, together now make up half of U.S. cases, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Pfizer and Moderna already were brewing boosters that add protection to the first omicron mutant. Their combination shots, what scientists call "bivalent" vaccines, substantially boosted levels of antibodies capable of fighting that variant, more than simply giving another dose of today's vaccine.

Both companies found the tweaked shots also offered some cross-protection against those worrisome BA.4 and BA.5 mutants, too, but not nearly as much.

Many scientists favor the combination approach because it preserves the original vaccines' proven benefits, which include some cross-protection against other mutants that have cropped up during the pandemic.

The question facing FDA is the correct recipe change. Both companies said they'd have plenty of omicron-targeted combo shots by October but Moderna said switching to target omicron's newest relatives might delay its version another month.

Further complicating the decision is that only half of vaccinated Americans have received that all-important first booster. And while the CDC says protection against hospitalization has slipped some for older adults, a second booster that's recommended for people 50 and older seems to restore it. But only a quarter of those eligible for the additional booster have gotten one.

Marks said that by tweaking the shots, "we're hoping we can convince people to go get that booster to

strengthen their immune response and help prevent another wave."

The logistics will be challenging. Many Americans haven't had their first vaccinations yet, including young children who just became eligible — and it's not clear whether tweaked boosters eventually might lead to a change in the primary vaccine. But the FDA's advisers said it's important to go ahead and study updated vaccine recipes in children, too.

And one more complexity: A third company, Novavax, is awaiting FDA authorization of a more traditional kind of COVID-19 vaccine, protein-based shots. Novavax argued Tuesday that a booster of its regular vaccine promises a good



A health worker administers a dose of a COVID-19 vaccine during a vaccination clinic at the Keystone First Wellness Center in Chester, Pa., on Dec. 15, 2021.

Associated Press

immune response against the new omicron mutants without a recipe change. Advisers to the World Health Organization recently said omicron-tweaked shots

would be most beneficial as a booster only, because they should increase the breadth of people's cross-protection against multiple variants. □



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Ghislaine Maxwell sentenced to 20 years for helping Epstein

By **TOM HAYS** and
LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Ghislaine Maxwell, the jet-setting socialite who once consorted with royals, presidents and billionaires, was sentenced Tuesday to 20 years in prison for helping the financier Jeffrey Epstein sexually abuse underage girls.

The stiff sentence was the punctuation mark on a trial that explored the sordid rituals of a predator power couple who courted the rich and famous as they exploited vulnerable girls as young as 14.

Prosecutors said Epstein, who killed himself in 2019 while awaiting trial, sexually abused children hundreds of times over more than a decade, and couldn't have done so without the help of Maxwell, his long-time companion.

A jury in December convicted Maxwell, 60, of sex trafficking, transporting a minor to participate in illegal sex acts and two conspiracy charges.

Judge Alison J. Nathan, who also imposed a \$750,000 fine, noted that Maxwell never expressed remorse. The judge said she wanted the sentence to send an "unmistakable message."

Maxwell, wearing a blue prison uniform and a white mask to conform with coronavirus rules, looked to one side as the sentence was announced, but otherwise did not react. She wore leg shackles that could be heard rattling when she walked into the courtroom. Addressing the court earlier, Maxwell stood at a lectern and said she empathized with the survivors and hoped her punishment would bring them peace. But she did not admit culpability and laid blame for the abuse on Epstein, saying meeting him was the "greatest regret of my life." She called him "a manipulative, cunning and controlling man who lived a profoundly compartmentalized life."

Annie Farmer, one of the four accusers who testified against Maxwell at trial,



Christine Maxwell, left, Kevin Maxwell, rear center, and Isabel Maxwell, right, siblings of Ghislaine Maxwell, leave federal court, Tuesday, June 28, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

was briefly overcome with emotion as she addressed the judge before the sentence was pronounced.

"We will continue to live with the harm she caused us," Farmer said.

The judge said Maxwell was being punished for her "heinous and predatory" crimes, not Epstein's. She criticized Maxwell's "pattern of deflection and blame." Four survivors at the sentencing described their sexual abuse, including Farmer, who said she and her sister tried to go public with their stories about Epstein and Maxwell two decades ago, only to be shut down by the powerful couple through threats and influence with authorities.

Inside a courtroom crowded with reporters, three of Maxwell's siblings sat in a row behind her. Outside the courthouse, Kevin Maxwell said that his sister won't give up on her legal battle, "and we as a family will be solidly behind her."

Defense attorney Bobbi Sternheim promised to appeal, saying Maxwell "has been tried and convicted in the court of public opinion." She said Epstein had left Maxwell "holding the whole bag."

Earlier in court, Assistant U.S. Attorney Alison Moe re-

counted how Maxwell and Epstein "molested these kids together." She called Maxwell "a person who was indifferent to the suffering of other human beings."

Epstein and Maxwell's associations with some of the world's most famous people were not a prominent part of the trial, but mentions of friends such as Bill Clinton, Donald Trump and Britain's Prince Andrew showed how the pair exploited their connections to impress their prey.

Over the past 17 years, scores of women have accused Epstein of abusing them, with many describing Maxwell as the madam who recruited them. The trial, though, revolved around allegations from only a handful of those women.

Four testified that they were abused as teens in the 1990s and early 2000s at Epstein's mansions in Florida, New York, New Mexico and the Virgin Islands.

Three were identified in court only by their first names or pseudonyms to protect their privacy: Jane, a television actress; Kate, an ex-model from the U.K.; and Carolyn, now a mom recovering from drug addiction. The fourth was Farmer, the sole accuser to

identify herself in court by her real name, after speaking out publicly.

They described how Maxwell charmed them with conversation and gifts and promises that Epstein could use his wealth and connections to help fulfill their dreams.

Then, they testified, she led them to give massages to Epstein that turned sexual and played it off as normal. Carolyn testified that she was one of several underprivileged teens who lived near Epstein's Florida home in the early 2000s and took up an offer to massage him in exchange for \$100 bills in what prosecutors described as "a pyramid of abuse."

Maxwell made all the arrangements, Carolyn told the jury, even though she knew the girl was only 14 at the time.

The allegations against Epstein first surfaced publicly in 2005. He pleaded guilty to sex charges in Florida and served 13 months in prison, much of it in a work-release program as part of a deal criticized as lenient. Afterward, he was required to register as a sex offender.

In the years that followed, many women sued Epstein over alleged abuse. One,

Virginia Giuffre, claimed that Epstein and Maxwell had also pressured her into sexual trysts with other powerful men, including Prince Andrew. All of those men denied the allegations, and Giuffre ultimately settled a lawsuit against Andrew out of court.

Federal prosecutors in New York revived the case against Epstein after stories by the Miami Herald in 2018 brought new attention to his crimes. He was arrested in 2019, but killed himself a month later.

Eleven months after his death, Maxwell was arrested at a New Hampshire estate. Since then, she has been jailed in a federal facility in New York City.

Her lawyers fought to have her conviction tossed out on the grounds of juror misconduct. Days after the verdict, one juror gave media interviews in which he disclosed he had been sexually abused as a child — something he hadn't told the court during jury selection. Maxwell's lawyers said she deserved a new trial. A judge disagreed.

At least eight women submitted letters to the judge, describing the sexual abuse they said they endured.

Anne Holve and Philip Maxwell, her eldest siblings, wrote to the court to ask for leniency and said that their sister's relationship with Epstein began soon after the 1991 death of their father, the British newspaper magnate Robert Maxwell.

Robert Maxwell, they wrote, subjected his daughter to "frequent rapid mood swings, huge rages and rejections," which "led her to becoming very vulnerable to abusive and powerful men who would be able to take advantage of her innate good nature."

Sarah Ransome — an accuser whose allegations weren't included in the trial — testified about the lasting harm to her life, gazing directly at Maxwell several times.

"You broke me in unfathomable ways," said Ransome, who twice tried to die by suicide. "But you did not break my spirit." □

U.S. officials back in Venezuela in a bid to rebuild ties

By REGINA GARCIA CANO
and JOSHUA GOODMAN
Associated Press Writer
CARACAS, Venezuela

(AP) — Senior U.S. government officials have quietly traveled to Caracas in the latest bid to bring home detained Americans and rebuild relations with the South American oil giant as the war in Ukraine drags on, forcing the U.S. to recalibrate other foreign policy objectives.

A U.S. State Department spokesperson described the trip as a welfare visit focused on the safety of several U.S. citizens detained in Caracas, including a group of oil executives from Houston-based Citgo jailed more than four years ago. The delegation includes Roger Carstens, the special presidential envoy on hostage affairs, as well as Ambassador James Story, who heads the U.S. government's Venezuelan Affairs Unit out of neighboring Colombia.

President Nicolás Maduro confirmed the visit during televised remarks, saying the delegation would meet with a trusted ally, National Assembly President Jorge Rodríguez, to "give conti-



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro gestures as he speaks in a joint news briefing with his Iranian counterpart Ebrahim Raisi at the Saadabad Palace in Tehran, Iran, Saturday, June 11, 2022. Associated Press

nuity to the bilateral agenda between the government of the United States and the government of Venezuela."

The visit follows a surprise trip in March by the two officials and Juan Gonzalez, the National Security Council director for the Western Hemisphere.

That was the first White House trip to the country in more than two decades.

That trip resulted in the release of two American citizens who the U.S. considered unjustly detained and a promise from Maduro to jumpstart talks with his opponents. Months earlier, he had suspended the negotiations, led by Norwegian diplomats in Mexico, after a key ally was extradited to the U.S. on money-laundering charges. It's unclear what else the officials are

seeking to accomplish during the mission. But high on the list are likely to be Maduro's demand that the U.S. lift crippling oil sanctions that have exacerbated hardships in what was once South America's most prosperous nation. Upon arrival in Caracas, Story met for two hours with Juan Guaidó, according to someone close to the leader of the U.S.-backed op-

position. The two discussed efforts to jumpstart negotiations in Mexico, according to the person on the condition of anonymity to discuss the private meeting.

Since the March trip, both the Biden administration and Venezuela's socialist government have shown a willingness to engage after years of hostilities between Washington and Caracas over Maduro's 2018 reelection, which was marred by irregularities. The U.S. and other nations withdrew recognition of Maduro after that election, and instead, recognized Guaidó as Venezuela's legitimate leader.

Although negotiations between Maduro and the opposition have yet to resume, the U.S. then renewed a license so that oil companies, including Chevron, could continue to perform only basic upkeep of wells they operate jointly with Venezuela's state-run oil giant PDVSA.

The White House also lifted sanctions imposed in 2017 targeting the nephew of First Lady Cilia Flores, who at the time was accused of facilitating corruption while a top official at PDVSA. □

UN: More than 300,000 civilians killed in Syria's conflict

By JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — The first 10 years of Syria's conflict, which started in 2011, killed more than 300,000 civilians, the United Nations said

Tuesday the highest official estimate to date of conflict-related civilian deaths in the country.

The conflict began with anti-government protests that broke out in March 2011 in

different parts of Syria, demanding democratic reforms following Arab Spring protests in Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, Libya and Bahrain that removed some Arab leaders who had been in power for decades.

However, it quickly turned into a full-blown civil war that killed hundreds of thousands and destroyed large parts of the country. Tuesday's report published by the U.N. Human Rights Office followed what it said were rigorous assessment and statistical analysis of the available data on civilian casualties. According to the report, 306,887 civilians are estimated to have been killed in Syria between March 1, 2011 and March 31, 2021 because of the conflict.

The figures released by the

U.N. do not include soldiers and insurgents killed in the conflict; their numbers are believed to be in the tens of thousands. The numbers also do not include people who were killed and buried by their families without notifying authorities.

"These are the people killed as a direct result of war operations. This does not include the many, many more civilians who died due to the loss of access to healthcare, to food, to clean water and other essential human rights," said U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet.

The report, mandated by the U.N. Human Rights Council, cited 143,350 civilian deaths individually documented by various sources with detailed infor-

mation, including at least their full name, date and location of death.

Also, statistical estimation techniques were used to connect the dots where there were missing elements of information. Using these techniques, a further 163,537 civilian deaths were estimated to have occurred.

"The conflict-related casualty figures in this report are not simply a set of abstract numbers, but represent individual human beings," Bachelet said. She added that the work of civil society organizations and the U.N. in monitoring and documenting conflict-related deaths is key in helping families and communities establish the truth, seek accountability and pursue effective remedies. □



Residents walk through the destruction of the once rebel-held Salaheddine neighborhood in the eastern Aleppo, Syria, Jan. 20, 2017.

Associated Press

Scottish leader calls for new independence vote next year

By SYLVIA HUI

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Scotland's leader told lawmakers in Edinburgh Tuesday that she plans to hold a fresh referendum on Scotland's independence on Oct. 19, 2023 — even though U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson maintains it wasn't the right time for such a vote.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said the question to be asked will be the same as that in Scotland's first independence vote in 2014: "Should Scotland be an independent country?"

The U.K.-wide government of Johnson opposes a new referendum and has repeatedly said the issue was settled in 2014, when 55% saying they wanted to remain part of the United Kingdom.

Scotland's government requires a special order from Johnson to legally hold a referendum.

Sturgeon said she will ask the U.K. Supreme Court to rule on the Scottish government's right to hold the vote if Johnson does not give the go-ahead.

Scotland's most senior law official has referred the matter to the top court on Tuesday, she said.

She added that she would



Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon delivers a statement to lawmakers in the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, Tuesday June 28, 2022, on her plans to hold a fresh referendum on Scottish independence on Oct. 19, 2023.

Associated Press

be writing to Johnson to inform him of her plans.

Sturgeon, who leads the Scottish National Party and the devolved government in Scotland, insists it's time to revisit the matter of independence, not least because of Britain's exit from the European Union — a move opposed by a majority of Scots.

"My determination is to secure a process that allows the people of Scotland,

whether yes, no or yet to be decided, to express their views in a legal, constitutional referendum so the majority view can be established fairly and democratically," she said Tuesday.

"We will study it very carefully and we will respond properly ... I certainly think that we'll be able to have a stronger economy and a stronger country together," he told reporters.

A spokesman for Johnson's office said his position is unchanged and he "continues to think it's not the time to be talking about a referendum."

The spokesman said the government will not be drawn into "hypotheticals" about whether it would open negotiations for Scottish independence if Scots vote for it in a referendum next year.

Even if the referendum

does go ahead as proposed, a majority vote will not by itself make Scotland independent from the rest of the U.K.

"For Scotland to become independent following a yes vote, legislation would have to be passed by the U.K. and Scottish Parliaments," Sturgeon stressed. Sturgeon maintains that her party's success in local elections last year gives her a mandate for a fresh referendum. While the Scottish National Party did not win overall control in the Scottish Parliament, the election of a record number of Scottish Green lawmakers means there is a majority for a new independence vote.

Sturgeon said that if there was no lawful way for the Scottish government to hold a referendum, and if Johnson's government refused to grant permission for such a vote, she would fight the next U.K. general election on the single issue of independence.

Opposition parties have criticized Sturgeon for her "obsession" with holding a new independence vote and say she should instead be focused on more practical matters such as tackling the soaring cost of living. □



In this Wednesday, June 22, 2022, image provided by Caladan Oceanic, the three-tube torpedo launcher that was part of the USS Samuel B. Roberts can be seen underwater off the Philippines in the Western Pacific Ocean.

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— A U.S. Navy destroyer escort that engaged a superior Japanese fleet in the largest sea battle of World War II in the Philippines has become the deepest wreck to be discovered, according to explorers.

The USS Samuel B. Roberts, popularly known as the

"Sammy B," was identified on Wednesday broken into two pieces on a slope at a depth of 6,985 meters (22,916 feet).

That puts it 426 meters (1,400 feet) deeper than the USS Johnston, the previous deepest wreck discovered last year in the Philippine Sea also by American

Explorers find WWII Navy ship, deepest wreck discovered

explorer Victor Vescovo, founder of Dallas-based Caladan Oceanic Expeditions. He announced the latest find together with U.K.-based EYOS Expeditions.

"It was an extraordinary honor to locate this incredibly famous ship, and by doing so have the chance to retell her story of heroism and duty to those who may not know of the ship and her crew's sacrifice," Vescovo, a former Navy commander, said in a statement.

The Sammy B. took part in the Battle off Samar, the final phase of the Battle of Leyte Gulf in October 1944, in which the Imperial Japa-

nese Navy suffered its biggest loss of ships and failed to dislodge the U.S. forces from Leyte, which they invaded earlier as part of the liberation of the Philippines. According to some records, the destroyer escort disabled a Japanese heavy cruiser with a torpedo and significantly damaged another while battling the group led by the command battleship Yamato. After having spent virtually all its ammunition, it was critically hit by the battleship Kongo and sank. Of a 224-man crew, 89 died and 120 were saved, including the captain, Lt. Cmdr. Robert W. Copeland.

According to Samuel J. Cox, a retired admiral and naval historian, Copeland stated there was "no higher honor" than to have led the men who displayed such incredible courage going into battle against overwhelming odds, from which survival could not be expected.

The explorers said that up until the discovery, the historical records of where the wreck lay were not very accurate. The search involved the use of the deepest side-scan sonar ever installed and operated on a submersible, well beyond the standard commercial limitations of 6,000 meters (19,685 feet), EYOS said. □

Authorities come together to mark International Day Against Abuse and Illicit Traffic of Drugs

On the 26th of June was commemorated the International Day Against Abuse and Illicit Traffic of Drugs. Anti-Drug Foundation Aruba (FADA), together with other agencies joined together in a press conference on the 27th of June to pay attention to awareness and prevention.

United Nations Organization stands still to reinforce action and cooperation for a society that is free of drugs. Since its approval in 1987, this day is used to gather people, community and organizations all around the world to create awareness about the important problem that illicit substances represent to society.

Rulienne Arends, preventive worker for FADA, said that the 26th of June is a very important day for this and other agencies, on which they celebrate International Day Against Abuse and Illicit Traffic of Drugs. United Nations for 2022 chose the motto 'Care in Crises', a campaign focused on the humanitarian side. For this reason, United Nations calls upon governments, international organizations, civil society and every interested person to take urgent action to protect people. The campaign highlights data from the report by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which presents facts and practical solutions for the drug problem and to support a sanitary vision for everyone, based on science.

Arends expressed that two years ago situation was very intense because of the Covid-19 pandemic, and FADA received a lot of calls from people, be it for themselves or members of their family, because of lost jobs, loss of fixed income, or deceased family members which caused them to fall back into addiction.

For many years, FADA has



been working for prevention, giving talks to children 4 years and older, to explain about all the dangers that use of legal or illegal substances has on people's health. Arends explained that they have given talks to adults up to 80 years old, so they can have all the information they need.

This effort isn't only FADA's job, but also other agencies which every day fight and prevent the use and illicit traffic of drugs. At the press conference was also present the Department of Customs, represented by Kathleen Faro, who is assistant manager, and also by Denice Kelly, who works as dog handler for Customs. Kelly said that their job is focused primarily on weapons, drugs and money, working together with six dogs they have in the department. She also indicated that they work together with the Police Force and Coast Guard. They also check passengers arriving at the airport and on cruise

ships.

Drug trafficking continues day by day, with people trying a thousand different ways to either take out or bring in illicit substances. Kelly says that most cases they encounter are people trying to travel with the substances.

Also at the press conference was the social worker of Stichting Hunto (Together Foundation), Michelle Lont, who said that unlike the work that FADA does for prevention, Stichting Hunto works on treatment. They have two types, ambulatory and intramural.

For the ambulatory part, Lont said that through partner organizations which refer clients to them, Stichting Hunto works with the private and public sector, hospitality, school of the Aruban community directly. When a client is referred to Stichting Hunto, they carry out various drug tests, alcohol test and consump-

tion to identify the degree of seriousness of the person's addiction. They work with psychoeducation, psychopedagogy, social workers and a psychiatrist to determine the type of help that the person needs, and then proceed depending of the amount of sessions the client needs. If the ambulatory treatment doesn't work for the client, then they proceed to the intramural part, which according to Lont, is like a rehabilitation center. There they advice the client, but don't demand, that they enter the rehabilitation center on a basis of three, six or nine months, during which they receive psychoeducation so they can go back into the community – this because some of them forget some basic necessities about how to integrate back.

The admission criteria, according to Lont, is that when a person enters the rehabilitation center, they must be 18 years or older, and they don't accept people older than 65. This is because underage children require specific professional care that they don't have available at the moment. "If we put an underage child right now together with a person 18 or older, the thought and the care are completely different", according to Lont. Neither do they accept people with mental or physical health problems.

Lont also highlighted that World Organization Drugs and Alcohol mentions that on 2019, more than half a million people died as a result of addiction, and they expect that by 2030 this is going to rise with 11 percent. As a representative of Stichting Hunto, she expressed that they have noticed and experienced an increase in the amount of clients. In 2020 they helped 960 clients and in 2021 they helped more than 1,500 clients, of which 4 percent asked for intramural help and 96 percent asked for ambulatory care.

For this reason they wanted to give attention to this day, so that people can be aware of what drug and addiction can cause, not only to individuals, but to entire communities. □



Aruba is now under Code Orange

It's important to prevent and make sure we are well prepared

ORANJESTAD - The Prime Minister of Aruba EVELYN Wever-Croes along with Bureau Rampenbestrijding, during a press conference announced that Aruba is under a Tropical Storm Warning. The bad weather that is coming has developed very quickly and Crisis Team of Aruba will be active to handle the situation.



The latest update from the Prime Minister is that the velocity of the storm has increased from 25km per hour to 38km per hour. As indicated on Monday night, the storm was expected to arrive on Wednesday night around 8pm, however considering the current speed, it will arrive earlier as well. Therefore, it's expected at around 6pm, at which time the effects of the storm will be felt. Aruba is now in

Code Orange with a possibility of entering Code Red on Wednesday Afternoon.

Up until now all that is expected is heavy rainfall. In this case it is asked that everyone prepares for 3 days of heavy rain, namely Wednesday, Thursday and

Friday. The situation is still subject to change, however in the most severe of cases we expect 3 days of heavy rainfall.

Another fact about this storm is that it will also hit the South part of Aruba, between Aruba and Venezuela. This route is one

that it's not used to taking, which makes it possible that we may experience other types of results, the Prime Minister explained.

We also expect that during the hours ahead of us, the beaches may get rough and therefore a "Small

Craft Warning" has been emitted. The government made an appeal to all fishermen to remove their boats from the ocean.

The government of Aruba is moving every emergency team to their designated positions and asks the community as well as our visitors to take the necessary precautions, especially those who are in areas subject to flooding. If possible, it is preferred to spend the duration of the storm with family members of acquaintances.

The Prime Minister emphasized that the situation looks serious, however the situation is always subject to change during its development. At this moment, it is of utmost importance to prevent and make sure we are all well prepared for any circumstance. □

Aruba is now under Tropical Storm Warning

Oranjestad - The government of Aruba has issued a Tropical Storm Warning for Aruba.

Earlier today the Aruban weather watch issued an update where they informed that the tropical wave would be exiting the area today, while it would be trailing unstable somewhat moist conditions, which would account for the patchy clouds with a few rain showers over the Island and its surroundings through the next day.

However, a tropical disturbance, which is what will become Tropical Storm Bonnie is anticipated to affect the local weather.

Associated weather activity is being forecasted to peak during the night of Wednesday going into Thursday. Additionally, there will be above normal winds that will support hazardous seas onto the second half of this week.

A tropical Storm Warning is in effect for Trinidad and

Tobago, Grenada and its dependencies, Islas de Margarita, Coche and Cubagua, Bonaire, Cura-

cao and Aruba.

A Tropical Storm Warning means that tropical storm

conditions are expected somewhere within the area that is under this warning within 36 hours. □

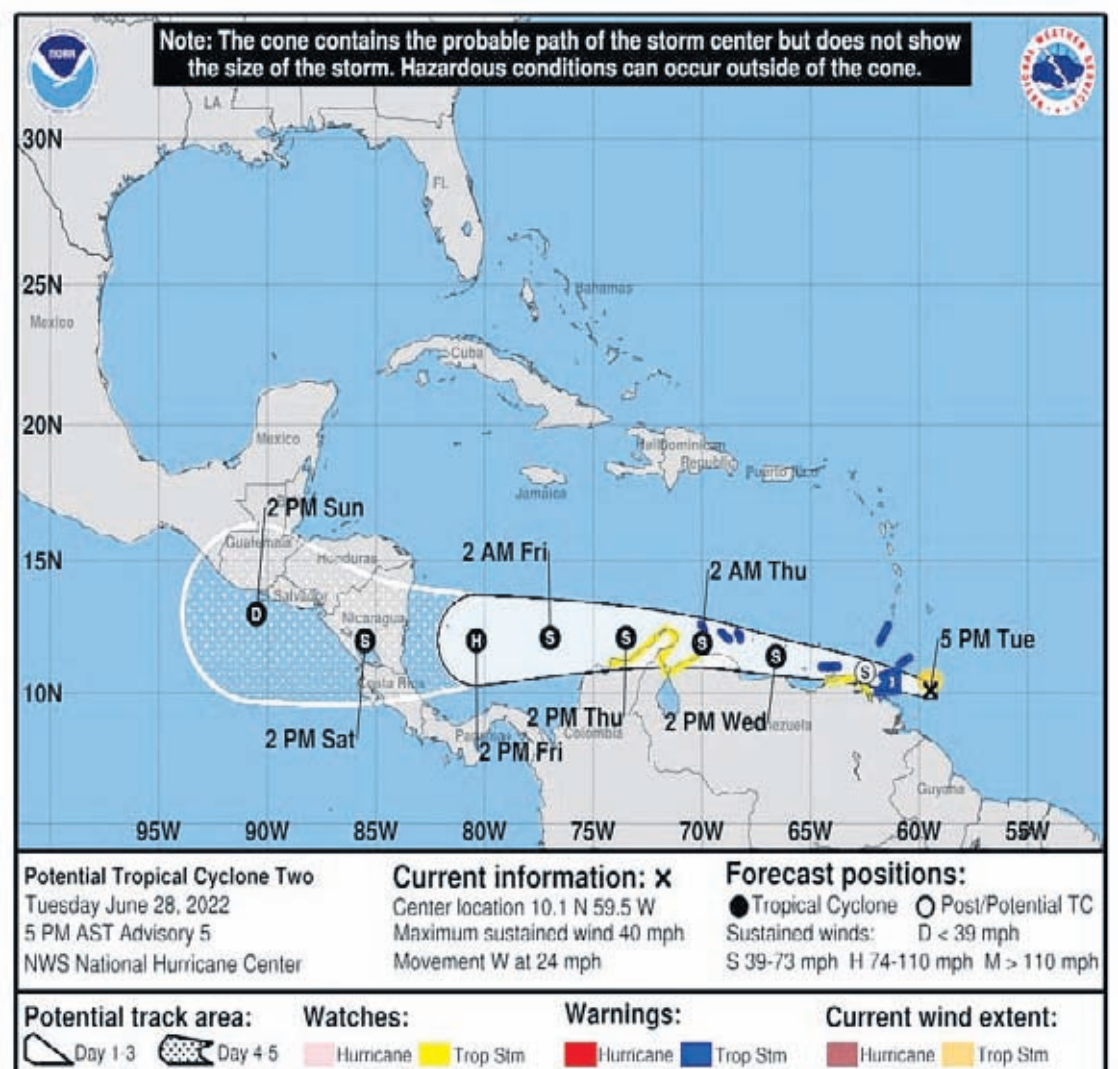
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Aruba welcomed more than 10 million tourists in cruise ships on Tuesday



ORANJESTAD - The Minister of Tourism and Public Health sr. Dangui Oduber is pleased to share that on Tuesday, Aruba welcomed 2 big cruise ships at our harbor.

One more time Aruba had the pleasure of saying "Bon Bini" to Allure of the Seas of Royal Caribbean and Horizon of Carnival Cruiselines. In total, Aruba received more than 10,200 tourists from these cruise ships. It is wonderful to see our visitors enjoying what the center of our Island has to offer.

He continues on to express that the upcoming year of 2023 looks very promising

for the recovery of Aruba's cruise tourism. There are already many calls confirm for the next year. A very positive news to look forward to is that Aruba will welcome another mega cruise ship, the Mardi Gras cruise ship of Carnival Cruise Lines that is known for having many tourists on board.

The Minister firmly believes in the recovery of Aruba's tourism, and therefore the government is doing all they can to further stimulate this recovery.

He expressed words of gratitude to the complete team of Aruba Ports Authority. □





Article by Etnia Nativa

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Caribbean Starfish

Episode CLX - 160

Etnia Nativa through Island Insight facilitates cultural awareness, education and safeguards Aruba's heritage by elevating each reader into an island keeper state of mind. Be encouraged to discover in every episode the true native effect, live it, discover more reasons to love Aruba behind our beaches and liven up your stay in an incredibly wonderful way.

Our island is a tiny tourist destination with a fragile ecosystem, covering thousands of years of history. Here is where Etnia Nativa's main objective comes to mind through educating the readers over Aruba's heritage. We believe in when you love and value what you have, ones greatest desire becomes to protect it.

Aruba is famous for its beautiful white sand beaches in contrast to the blue-turquoise sea, thinking about this it is not difficult to imagine the incredible places you can find when you dive into beautiful waters surrounding the island, whether enjoying a simple "dip" or exploring its depths.

A colorful marine life, exotic fish, coral reefs, sea turtles Etc. are part of the underwater landscape you can enjoy with a simple snorkel equipment without counting the occasional sunken ship that is also part of our sudmarine spectacle.

Time ago it was normal to see an abundant underwater life: shells, sanddollars and hundreds of Starfishes, the red cushion sea star or the Caribbean everywhere on the white sandy sea bottom. Many species of Starfishes was part of our extraordinary marine life. Over human activities and unregulated exploitation has change our land and submarine landscapes dramatically while diminishing population of local species. knowing a little more about these beautiful prehistoric creatures one can really help mitigate the greater collective damage. So if you are lucky to see one or more in places such as Malmok-Arashi-Tres Trapi or Baby Beach ... we recommend to admire and enjoy all from a prudent distance, never touch or take what belongs under water out with you.



Starfish or Seastar as they are also known absorb oxygen from water through channels on their outer body. Touch or remove them from the water could lead to suffocating, dehydration and dead. Sea Stars are one of the most beautiful looking animals in the vast ocean. They have a surprisingly unusual anatomy, with no brain or blood, yet are able to digest food outside their body. Regenerating their own lost limbs is perhaps one of the most useful things a starfish can do.

Most sea stars are active omnivorous predators feeding on almost anything they come across, mussels, clams and oysters. Being referred to as a keystone species, as their feeding has an effect on the whole ecosystem.

The disappearance of our Caribbean starfish - *Oreaster reticulatus* - is an unfortunate reality so if you see them admire them but don't touch them, help us preserve them!



For more info we invite you to be part of an exclusive experience visit to Etnia Nativa, an off the tourist grid, private residential eco dwelling, housing a private collections of native art, archaeological artifacts and historic furniture, while the facility itself is the result of the transforming and recycling of materials. Meet our columnist who will take you in to a native Aruban experience in his museum/ home. The only authentically native cultural encounter that you will not find anywhere else! Live this experience and enjoy the native effect!

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Monica Pimentel:**“Practicing a sport or activity outside of just school and home is important for physical and mental health of young people”**

Monica Pimentel is a 33 year old who from a young age has practiced taekwondo. In 2016, Monica had the honor of representing Aruba at the Rio Olympics. During our conversation, she told us about her experience, her preparation for the Olympics, and the importance of practicing any kind of activity while young.

Monica started her taekwondo training when she was 9 years old, under Grand Master Chaco Cornelio. Her parents signed her up for taekwondo so she could learn self-defense as a girl. She practiced other sports as well, but she felt a stronger connection with taekwondo, and she explains this discipline has helped her in many aspects of her life.

“I believe that sport in general gives you responsibility at a young age, for example, to be on time. Also teaches you to push yourself. And when you fight or practice your sport, you must expose yourself and that also gives you confidence”, she said.

In 2016, Monica represented Aruba at the Rio Olympics. She says that from a young age she was always very competitive, and used to always watch the Olympics on TV. That was always on her mind when she decided to commit to train to reach the Olympics. “The moment when I had to choose to take it more seriously and make it, that was the moment when in 2012-2013 I went to live in S. Korea for three years. I went to train abroad full-time.”



“I had to get used to it. I didn't have the volume or intensity yet. When I started, it was really difficult for me and I had to really push myself so I could reach the point where I could say, OK, I am at the same level as the group. Obviously it didn't take a couple of days; that's something you need to be aware of, and like I said, it's very important to keep pushing yourself”, Monica says.

Monica explains that Olympic qualification in any sport is difficult to achieve. Even big countries sometimes cannot reach this, and Aruba is a very small country. Monica explains that there are different factors why Aruba doesn't always qualify for Olympic competition in taekwondo. “If you compare it with Mexico which has kids going abroad to compete, who come from a system where they come from a small school and they grow to reach a high level. For example a kid who started training at 7 years old, by the time they are 12 years old they have a lot more competition experience compared to a kid from Aruba. That is one of the factors which makes it harder when you come from a small country, your development in the sport”, she explained.

“Bigger countries also have better

taekwondo.

During the pandemic it was a very difficult period, as Monica tells, but they keep working hard so the school can keep growing. “It's a beautiful sport; it's a sport that many parents like because it gives the children discipline. So we keep working hard at the school”, she says.

Monica explains that she made the decision to start with Impact Taekwondo Aruba so she could give back to the community. “I am very thankful to represent Aruba at the Olympics, not only Aruba, but the sport of taekwondo. I feel that it's my role and also my responsibility to continue with this.”

To conclude, Monica emphasizes the importance of practicing sports nowadays. She says that it's not only important for young people to understand the importance of sports and activity, but it's also important for parents to understand how important it is to practice sports for a kid's life. “To practice sport or anything else that involves movement, group activity, music, an extra activity is always something positive in the life of a young person”, she says. “Seeing the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, you see a lot of people have problems with mental health. I believe that doing sport or practicing an activity, aside from just going to school and going home, is something important for the physical and mental activity of a young person.”□



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

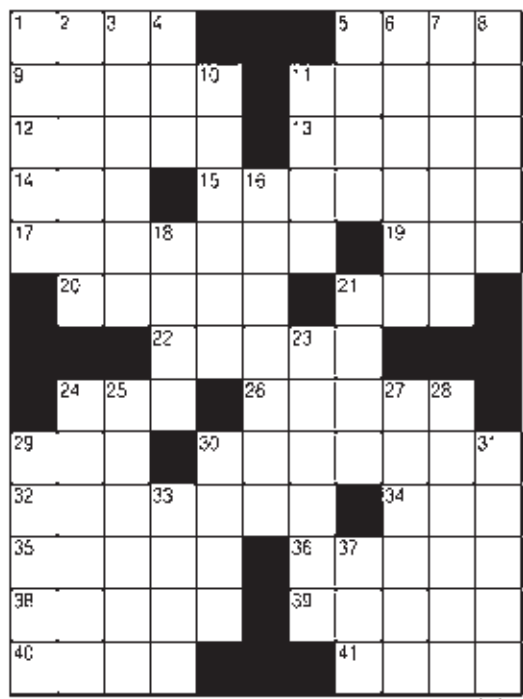
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Yesterday's answer

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1 Carry on 11 Warbled pagne
2 Johnson's 16 Justice drink
middle Scalia 28 Sulking
name 18 Orderly 29 Cumin or
3 Disconnect 21 Writer coriander
4 Young Uris 30 Peach
one 23 Texas parts
5 Tibia's base- 31 Skein
place baller members
6 Civil 24 Praised 33 Staff
7 Made flat 25 Store- symbol
8 Doorstop front 37 Fireplace
shape sight fuel



A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-29 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

X W Z A P W V O X E E F G P A
E U K O E P W O A A V X W W U F R O
G O X K O W . P J W U D P W C N
G O X H F P F P A Q T W O . — X R R X
D U E A U W

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE PEDIGREE OF HONEY DOES NOT CONCERN THE BEE; A CLOVER, ANYTIME, TO HIM, IS ARISTOCRACY. — EMILY DICKINSON

Millennial Money: Getting therapy when cost is a barrier

By SARA RATHNER
of NerdWallet

The race to find mental health treatment can feel like a marathon when you may not have the energy or ability to even make it to the starting line. You may be faced with limited affordable options and a lack of available therapists. "Prior to the pandemic, we had an inadequate workforce to meet the mental health demand of the country," says Vaile Wright, who has a doctorate in counseling psychology and is the senior director of health care innovation at the American Psychological Association. "And that has only been exacerbated by the pandemic."

According to the APA's 2021 COVID-19 Practitioner Survey, 43% of psychologists reported an increase in overall number of patients compared with 2020. At the same time, 41% of psychologists said they couldn't keep up with demand and 46% felt burned out. Thankfully, there are multiple ways to access care at a variety of price points, including telehealth options.

USE RESOURCES THAT YOU MIGHT ALREADY HAVE

Your employer may offer an employee assistance program, or EAP, which can connect you, your spouse or partner and your children with various services including short-term counseling. Review your benefits to see what your EAP provides, if you have one. If you have school-aged children, their guidance counselor can be a helpful resource not just for academic concerns, but also for more personal, social and behavioral issues.



A woman walks inside a hallway on Monday, Aug. 6, 2018, at Commonwealth Health Moses Taylor Hospital in Scranton, Pa. Associated Press

College students may also have access to free or low-cost counseling services on campus.

And don't forget primary care physicians and OB-GYNs. Annual preventative care visits, which are free with insurance, are an opportunity to talk about your mental health. Your doctor might prescribe medication or refer you to other practitioners. Dr. Carlene MacMillan, co-chair of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Consumer Issues Committee, recommends setting aside time during your routine appointment to talk about your mental health.

"If you're healthy mentally, physically it's easier to take care of whatever else is going on," she says.

SEARCH FOR PROVIDERS WHO TAKE YOUR INSURANCE

You can search for in-network providers through your health insurance company, but MacMillan cautions that the information there might be out of date. Double-check with Psychology Today (yes, as in the magazine). Its website

has a search tool you can use to find therapists, psychiatrists, treatment centers and support groups. According to MacMillan, the search results from this tool could be more up to date than some insurance databases. □

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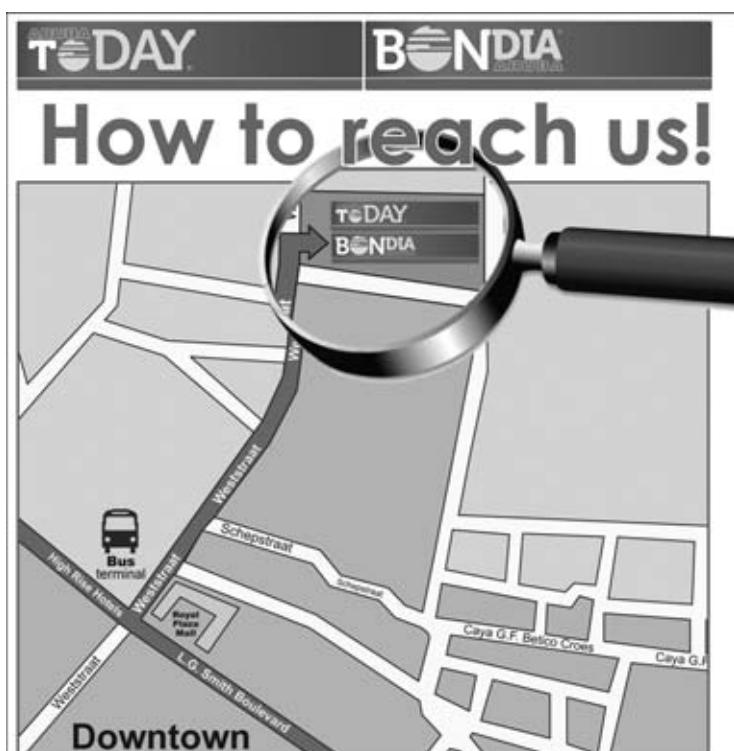
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Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks

Sales

Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

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A deep dive into Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah'

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP Film Writer

Leonard Cohen was deep in his career when he finally finished "Hallelujah." Well, the first version of "Hallelujah" — there would be many, many versions when all was said and done. He'd toiled on the lyrics for seven years. Yet when he submitted the album, "Various Positions," to his longtime record company Columbia Records in 1984, the company's president Walter Yetnikoff decided not to release it in the U.S. What would become Cohen's seminal anthem was dead on arrival.

But in the new documentary "Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, A Journey, A Song," in theaters Friday, directors Dayna Goldfine and Dan Gellar examine how despite the odds, the song managed to take on a life of its own thanks, in varying degrees, to Bob Dylan, John Cale, Jeff Buckley and Shrek. Yes, Shrek. Now, four decades after its initial recording, it's downright ubiquitous, a regular feature in movies, television shows, and singing competitions around the world. It's an interestingly stitched together film that starts at the end — his final performance in 2013, singing "Hallelujah," of course — and rewinds to the begin-



Leonard Cohen is photographed in Toronto on Feb. 4, 2006.

ning of his songwriting career to trace how he got there.

It feels, in some ways, like two different films: The first part is a standard biographical documentary that then shifts focus to "Hallelujah's" resurrection outside of Cohen, before finally turning attention back to Cohen and his triumphant final tour. As the title says, it is a journey and a long one at that.

The filmmakers are enamored of their eloquent subjects, from Judy Collins and composer/arranger John Lissauer to a childhood

friend and his rabbi Mordechi Finley. One of the main voices is journalist and author Larry "Ratso" Sloman who interviewed Cohen many times over 30 years and whose tapes of those interviews are used to let Cohen speak for himself. The archival footage, too, is pretty extraordinary and elegantly paired with Cohen's music throughout.

Much of the film is devoted to chronicling Cohen's own spiritual journey and his evolving relationship with his Jewish faith, from his poetry to his later years at a zen center atop Mt. Baldy.

Associated Press

Singer Regina Spektor marvels about his graciousness at his Coachella performance in 2009, saying that it was like Cohen was teaching the audience how to be good.

And yet, for all the talk about and praise for his seeking, this is a film that seems completely uninterested in the fact that he's the father of two children. We see photos of them as babies with their mother during an offhanded mention that his family was breaking up.

A reporter mentions the kids later, but only in context of

clarifying that their mother Suzanne Elrod was not in fact the woman he was singing about in Suzanne.

There could be many reasons for this, including possibly honoring the wishes of his grown children, or wanting to focus on the work. But the absence of any acknowledgement makes this attempt at a deep, holistic portrait of Cohen feel incomplete at best. There is more time devoted to explaining the aesthetics of "Shrek" than his relationship with his kids.

Or maybe they just weren't really part of the path to "Hallelujah," though his daughter did have a child with Rufus Wainwright, who is responsible for one of the more famous covers of the song, featured on the wildly successful "Shrek" soundtrack.

It is interesting, though, that it seems to have been John Cale's cover that became the most influential. He stripped down the arrangement, took to the piano, belted out the lyrics and turned "Hallelujah" into a melodic anthem.

Jeff Buckley even said that though Cohen wrote the song, it was Cale's version that he was covering. No one, it seems, from Brandi Carlile to Bono to Eric Church, is out there singing Cohen's version. □



Actor Alec Baldwin attends the screening for "Framing John DeLorean" during the 2019 Tribeca Film Festival on April 30, 2019, in New York, left, and filmmaker Woody Allen attends a press conference for the film "Irrational Man," at the 68th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, on May 15, 2015.

Associated Press

By The Associated Press
Woody Allen told Alec Baldwin during a live inter-

view Tuesday on Instagram that he is mulling ending his movie-making career,

Woody Allen mulls end of career, talks with Alec Baldwin

saying directing has lost its luster.

The two men — each facing significant controversies — steered clear of addressing either the abuse allegations against Allen or the shooting last year on Baldwin's movie set.

The public comment options were turned off, and the 45-minute interview attracted a modest audience of between 2,400-2,700.

The two men chatted about Allen's writing, the use of profanity in films and the current state of Broadway. Allen lost his connec-

tion several times, with his screen freezing.

Allen, 87, said movie-making is not as exciting now that his films spend a few days in movie theaters and then directly go to streaming.

"A lot of the thrill is gone," he said. "It's not as enjoyable as it was." Still, he plans to make his next movie later this year in Paris. "I'm going to make another one, and I'll see how it feels."

Baldwin, who has worked with Allen on a number of films, including "To Rome with Love," "Alice" and "Blue Jasmine," kept the

mood light, complimenting Allen for his writing, and realizing that neither had contracted COVID-19.

Allen has continued to face backlash after his adopted daughter, Dylan Farrow, accused him of molesting her as a child. Allen has denied the allegations.

Baldwin has faced his own controversy after he fatally shot a cinematographer on the set of his film "Rust" in New Mexico. Baldwin has said he was pointing the gun at the cinematographer at her instruction when it went off without his pulling the trigger. □

Swiatek wins 36th in a row, Nadal also advances at Wimbledon

By CHRIS LEHOURITES

AP Sports Writer

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)

— From the red clay of the French Open to the green grass of Wimbledon, the wins keep coming for Iga Swiatek.

The top-seeded Pole won her opening match on Centre Court on Tuesday, beating Croatian qualifier Jana Fett 6-0, 6-3.

The victory was Swiatek's 36th in row and includes all seven matches she played at this year's French Open in winning her second title at Roland Garros. It's the longest winning streak on the women's tour since 1997, when Martina Hingis won 37. "It's my first match on grass this season, so I knew it's going to be tricky," Swiatek said on court. "I'm just figuring out how to play here and trying to implement all the stuff that we were practicing on."

The men's champion at Roland Garros also won at Wimbledon on Tuesday. Rafael Nadal defeated Francisco Cerundolo 6-4, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 in the first round a few hours after Swiatek finished her match.

Even with seven-time champion Serena Williams in the draw at the All England Club, Swiatek is the woman to beat. She won five tournaments before heading to Paris in May,



Poland's Iga Swiatek returns to Croatia's Jana Fett in a first round women's singles match on day two of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Tuesday, June 28, 2022.

Associated Press

earning consecutive titles in Doha, Indian Wells, Miami, Stuttgart and Rome.

Swiatek, again wearing a pin with the colors of Ukraine on her hat, started out like she left off in her last match at the French Open. But she went down 3-1 in the second set before recovering.

"The second set, at the beginning I lost my focus a little bit and she used that pretty well," Swiatek said.

Coco Gauff, who lost to Swiatek in this year's French Open final, also won her opening match. The 11th-seeded American beat

Elena-Gabriela Ruse of Romania 2-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Gauff got the go-ahead break in the third set at 5-5 on her sixth break point of the game when Ruse double-faulted.

In her two previous appearances at the All England Club, Gauff reached the fourth round.

Barbora Krejickova, who won the French Open in 2021 to split Swiatek's two titles there, also advanced to the second round. The 13th-seeded Czech defeated Maryna Zanevska of Belgium 7-6 (4), 6-3.

No. 4 Paula Badosa, No.

5 Maria Sakkari, No. 12 Jelena Ostapenko, No. 16 Simona Halep of Romania and No. 25 Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic also advanced. Both Halep and Kvitova are former champions at the All England Club. Among the seeded player to lose was Olympic champion Belinda Bencic. The 14th-seeded Swiss player lost to Qiang Wang of China 6-4, 5-7, 6-2.

No. 18 Jil Teichmann of Switzerland, No. 20 Amanda Anisimova of the United States and No. 27 Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan also lost.

Like Swiatek, Nadal was also playing for the first time since Paris, where he won his men's record 22nd Grand Slam singles title. And because of the pandemic and his left-foot injury, he said he hadn't played on grass since 2019, when he reached the semi-finals at the All England Club.

The two-time Wimbledon champion is attempting to win his third consecutive Grand Slam tournament, but his foot is a question mark.

"Every day is a test and today has been one of these important tests," Nadal said on court. "I know at the beginning of the tournament especially, and the difficult circumstances that I arrived here, the victory is the most important thing because that gives me the chance to practice tomorrow again and to have another match in two days."

Also in the men's draw, No. 18 Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria retired from his match with an apparent injury. He was leading Steve Johnson of the United States 6-4, 2-5 when he stopped.

No. 12 Diego Schwartzman of Argentina, No. 15 Reilly Opelka of the United States, No. 17 Roberto Bautista Agut of Spain and unseeded Nick Kyrgios of Australia also won. □

Senators ask minor leaguers for information on MLB antitrust

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman and ranking minority member of the Senate Judiciary Committee sent a letter to an advocacy group for minor leaguers asking questions about baseball's antitrust exemption. Sen. Richard Durbin, an Illinois Democrat who chairs the committee, and Charles Grassley, an Iowa Republican, sent the letter Tuesday to Harry Marino, executive director of Advocates for Minor Leaguers. The letter, first reported by The Washington Post, also was signed by Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Connecticut, and Sen. Mike Lee, R-

Utah. The senators asked for information on "the impact of the antitrust exemption on the negotiation of minor league players' length of contract, wages, housing or other working conditions."

Baseball's antitrust exemption was created by the U.S. Supreme Court in a 1922 case involving the Federal League, when Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote in a decision that baseball was not interstate commerce but exhibitions exempt from antitrust laws. The Supreme Court reaffirmed the decision in a 1953 case involving New

York Yankees farmhand George Toolson and in the 1972 Curt Flood decision, saying any changes should come from Congress.

The Curt Flood Act of 1998, which President Bill Clinton signed, applies antitrust laws to MLB affecting the employment of major league players at the major league level.

Perhaps the biggest impact of the exemption is that it allows MLB to prevent a franchise from moving to a different city without MLB permission.

The U.S. Justice Department filed a statement of interest this month in a



Sen. Richard Durbin speaks before Vice President Kamala Harris at the C.W. Avery Family YMCA in Plainfield, Ill., Friday, June 24, 2022.

Associated Press

lawsuit filed by four minor league teams urging that "lower courts should limit the 'baseball exemption' to conduct that is central to the business of offering professional baseball games

to the public." The lawsuit, by teams that lost their big league affiliations when MLB cut the minors before the 2021 season, is pending in U.S. District Court in Manhattan. □

Blunt talk means saying LIV Golf is all about money

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

Brooks Koepka likes to boast about his honesty. He takes as much pride in being bold and blunt as he does in his remarkable record in the major championships.

He does not shy from criticism if he feels it is warranted. Koepka once accused Patrick Reed of cheating by "building sand castles" in a waste area in the Bahamas. He left no doubt about his feelings for Bryson DeChambeau, a long list.

"I'm always going to speak my mind and tell you what I think, and I think everybody in this room knows that," he said at a PGA Championship preview day in 2020.

And now he has a chance to speak the truth about his decision to go back on his word and join the Saudi-funded rebel league known as LIV Golf.

It's about the money. It's that simple.

This is not a "force for good," the message Greg Norman has been trying to preach and too many of his puppets have been repeating. The 22 former or soon-to-be-suspended PGA Tour members in Oregon for the LIV Golf Invitational are not there for the innovative format, or to test themselves against the best, or even to win tournaments.

They are getting paid an obscene amount of mon-



Brooks Koepka watches his shot on the 11th hole during the second round of the U.S. Open golf tournament at The Country Club, Friday, June 17, 2022, in Brookline, Mass.

Associated Press

ey.

Of course, money never came up when Koepka spoke to the media on Tuesday for the first time since his decision was revealed. He simply spoke his mind, just like always, only he was of a different mind. "My opinion changed," he said, a phrase he used no fewer than six times.

Koepka was the latest example that everyone has a price. He actually said that himself four months ago at the Honda Classic.

This was one week after Phil Mickelson went into hid-

ing after his inflammatory remarks about the Saudis and the PGA Tour, after Dustin Johnson and Bryson DeChambeau said they were sticking with the PGA Tour, after Rory McIlroy declared the rebel league "dead in the water."

"I think there will still be talk," Koepka said in February. "Everyone talks about money. They've got enough of it. I don't see it backing down. They can just double up and they'll figure it out. They'll get their guys. Somebody will sell out and go to it."

And that somebody turned out to be him.

Mickelson showed his hand months ago in a couple of interviews when he accused the PGA Tour of "obnoxious greed" and said he and a few other top players had hired lawyers to write the new league's operating agreement. Joining LIV Golf was not a surprise. Johnson was the biggest fish the Shark landed. The temptation had been strong all along, and then he got an offer he couldn't ignore. The Daily Telegraph reported his signing fee at

\$150 million. That's twice as much as Johnson's career earnings after 15 years on the tour.

In some respects, Koepka went back on his word twice.

He was the second player, behind McIlroy, to speak out against the "Premier Golf League" concept that had Saudi financing and promised big riches, a team format, limited fields — everything Norman has now delivered.

"I have a hard time believing golf should be about just 48 players," he said in an interview with The Associated Press, right before golf was paused for three months because of the COVID-19 pandemic. "Money isn't going to change my life," he said. "There's something to be said about freedom of playing. I get to choose. To me, it's not worth it. I'm happy with how things are."

That was more than two years ago.

And then Koepka said in Phoenix this year: "It's been pretty clear for a long time now that I'm with the PGA Tour, it's where I'm staying. I'm very happy. I think they do things the right way, people I want to do business with."

But that's not what led McIlroy to say Koepka was being "duplicitous" by saying one thing and doing another. □



Los Angeles Lakers guard Russell Westbrook (0) controls the ball during an NBA basketball game against the New Orleans Pelicans in Los Angeles, Friday, April 1, 2022.

Associated Press

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

Los Angeles Lakers guard Russell Westbrook is exercising his option to play for \$47.1 million next season, a

person with direct knowledge of the decision said Tuesday.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because

AP source: Westbrook exercises \$47M option with Lakers

neither Westbrook — a past NBA MVP and one of the league's top 75 all-time players — nor the Lakers revealed the decision publicly. ESPN first reported Westbrook's decision.

It certainly was not a surprise, considering Westbrook would not have commanded anywhere near \$47.1 million for this coming season had he chosen to become a free agent. He'll turn 34 next season, his 15th in the NBA.

Westbrook had until Wednesday to make up his mind on the option, which

will make this the fifth and final season of a \$207 million contract he signed with the Oklahoma City Thunder. The nine-time All-Star has been well-traveled since — he was traded to Houston in 2019, traded to Washington in 2020 and was moved to the Lakers in 2021. That created what was supposed to be a great trio: Westbrook alongside LeBron James and Anthony Davis.

It didn't work out anywhere near as planned. The Lakers were dogged by injuries all season, missed the

playoffs, fired coach Frank Vogel after the season and Westbrook has taken much of the blame for what happened.

He averaged 18.5 points, 7.4 rebounds and 7.1 assists in 78 games with the Lakers. Only four other players — two-time reigning NBA MVP Nikola Jokic of Denver, James Harden of Philadelphia, Luka Doncic of Dallas and Dejounte Murray of San Antonio — finished the season with higher averages than Westbrook had in those three stat categories. □